

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 LISBON 05272 021502Z

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1148

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5272

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PO

SUBJ: LEONARD WOODCOCK URGES PROMPT U.S. AID TO PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 5270

1. LEONARD WOODCOCK, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS, TOLD LABOR ATTACHE SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM LISBON DECEMBER 1 THAT UPON RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES HE WILL CONTACT SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY IN THE EXPECTATION THAT THEY WILL MAKE A JOINT APPROACH TO SECRETARY KISSINGER URGING THAT SUBSTANTIAL U.S. AID BE GRANTED TO PORTUGAL SOON. WOODCOCK STATED HIS BELIEF THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THIS AID BE MADE AVAILABLE PRIOR TO THE ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY IN MARCH 1975 AS EVIDENCE OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR MODERATE ELEMENTS WITHIN PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. HE LIKENED A DELAY OF A DECISION ON AID TO PORTUGAL TO A PLEDGE OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO A POLITICAL CANDIDATE WHICH IS ONLY MADE AFTER HIS ELECTION AND STATED THAT IN BOTH CASES THE TIMING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE AMOUNT.

2. WOODCOCK STATED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER MARIO SOARES HAD INDICATED TO HIM THAT SOARES WAS DISSATISFIED WITH HIS OWN PRESENTATION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING THEIR MEETING IN WASHINGTON, BUT THAT SOARES BELIEVES HE HAS REACHED A FULL UNDERSTANDING WITH THE SECRETARY AS A RESULT OF THEIR MEETING IN TUNIS.

SCOTT

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PAGE 02 LISBON 05272 021502Z

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